



a place for historical figures

Directions: Select one of the Signers of the *Declaration of Independence* (No duplicates!). Next, research, research, research! Find out everything you can about him. Accuracy is important. Then, organize and customize your information on a foam board poster. You will present your MySpace page to the class.

Be imaginative, be creative, be clever, be serious, be cool, be humorous, be smart, and be surprising!

Grade Requirements

I Would Add You as a Friend: To earn the highest grade of "C+" the following must be included on your MySpace page:

- A personal photograph
- Name
- Status and mood
- Home town
- Date of Birth/Zodiac sign
- Last login date
- Education
- Occupation
- Relationship status
- Interests
- Music
- Movies
- Television

I Would Write On Your Wall: To earn the highest grade of "B+" your MySpace page must contain the above, plus:

- Five Friends
- Five Wall Comments
- Photo Share, 3 photos (you might want to "tag" your Signer)
- Most embarrassing moment
- Proudest moment

I Would SuperPoke you: To earn the highest grade of "A+" your MySpace page must contain all of the above plus:

- Most recent book read
- Favorite personal quote
- Religious view
- Political view
- Vision for the future

Remember! Where information can be historically/politically verified, your information must be accurate. Where you are bringing the Signer into the 21st Century (favorite movie, etc.) you may be creative.



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Basics of the Assignment

Students will choose a signer of the Declaration of Independence and create a MySpace page for that signer using a foam board. They will be evaluated based on the breadth of the information that they include, as well as the accuracy of that information. Furthermore, their creativity when it comes to including information that is not historically possible (i.e. favorite movie or TV show) will also be a factor in determining their grade.

Purpose of the Assignment

The purpose of this assignment is to transform what is usually a boring biography by turning it into a 21st century "document" in the form of a MySpace page. In essence, this is a culturally relevant assignment on a topic that, more often than not, has very little cultural relevance for students. Historical accuracy is critical, but students get to really connect with the historical figure by being creative about stuff that did not exist in the 18th century, but is part of their world today. For example, a student might decide that Sam Adams' favorite movie is *The Patriot*. By presenting their MySpace page, students find that the signers had diverse backgrounds and interests. In other words, they are not just a bunch of boring dead guys.

NCSS Standards

Thematic Strand V – Individuals, Groups, and Institutions

Thematic Strand X – Civic Ideals and Practices

National Civics Standards

II. What are the Foundations of the American Political System? A. What is the American idea of constitutional government?

Other considerations

This assignment can be modified to fit other historical figures. For example, students can create MySpace pages on founding fathers, Civil War figures, presidents, Supreme Court Justices, suffragists, etc. Additionally, if a class has computers, students can create actual myspace.com pages, given of course that the school district allows access to the site.